

REMARKS

Claims 5 and 7 are previously canceled. Claims 1, 3 and 6 are amended. Claims 9-12 are added. Support for the added claims may be found at FIG. 8 and the specification at pages 13-15. Claims 1-4, 6, and 8-12 are currently pending. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.

I. Drawings

Regarding the Examiner's rejections of the drawings for failing to show the claimed features, Applicants amend Claims 1, 3, 6 in consistency with FIG. 8 and the corresponding descriptions in the specification. Thus, FIG. 8 shows the claimed connections among the first, second, and the third delay lines. Applicants submit the amendment to these claims has obviated the need to amend the drawings. Approval of the amendment is respectfully requested.

II. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claim 5 is canceled. The Examiner indicates that Claims 1, 3, and 6 are indefinite because it is unclear how the delay line unit determines if the delay locking operation is achieved. Applicants submit that the specification (e.g., from last paragraph of page 3 to line 7 of page 4) clearly describes a process performed by an embodiment of the phase comparing unit (as recited in Claim 3) for determining whether a locking state is achieved. Thus, Applicants' specification provides sufficient support for the claims.

Moreover, the Examiner rejects Claims 1, 3, and 6 as misdescriptive. Applicants submit that the amendment to Claims 1, 3, and 6 has corrected the misdescriptions presented in the original claims. The currently pending claims recite features that correspond with the features of FIG. 8.

Accordingly, withdrawing and reconsideration of the rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Amber D. Saunders 5/4/06
Amber D. Saunders Date